NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

May 24, 1996

CAMPAIGN BRIEFING/RECEPTIONS

ALL FIELD MUSEUM STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVITED

Thursday, May 30: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. *OR*
Tuesday, June 11: 8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

In the Rice Wildlife Research Station

All Field Museum staff and volunteers are cordially invited to attend a briefing and reception for *CONNECTING: The Campaign for The Field Museum,* our institution's five-year, $60 million special fund raising effort. **Sandy Boyd** and other key staff and volunteer leaders will outline the campaign's objectives and explain how achieving these will benefit us all. There will also be ample time for questions and answers.

We are scheduling two briefings to accommodate as many people as possible. Light refreshments will be provided for all to enjoy.

SPIDERS!
OPENING WEEKEND PREMIERES SPIDERS! PLAY... and VOLUNTEERS GET THEIR FEET IN THE WEB

Opening weekend features a made-for-The-Field play by Green Light Performing Company. The play, "Spiders: The Web of Life" premieres this Friday at 11:00 a.m. and will be repeated on Saturday, Sunday and Monday at noon. Other performances include storyteller Shanta telling Anansi stories (noon on Friday, 1:00 p.m. in the exhibit on Saturday, Sunday and Monday). **Julia Brownwolf,** a Lakota, will demonstrate dreamcatchers and tell stories of her people's relationship with spiders on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Scientists who will talk with the public in the exhibit's Curator's Corner this weekend are **Dan Summers, Phil Parillo and John Wagner.**

Twenty-five volunteers are already on board to help visitors in the summer's Spiders! exhibit...and the teens are yet to come! Two floor managers will supervise the volunteers. **Stephen Bell,** who has worked with the Adler summer camps and the Field Museum overnight program, will work Sundays through Wednesdays. Stephen's background is in environmental

education and he just received his M.A. from the Art Institute of Chicago. **Bill Black,** who will work Wednesdays through Saturdays, researched loggerhead turtles at Florida Atlantic University, and worked with volunteers at the Gumbo Limbo Environmental Center there.

A training program for the Spiders! volunteers was set up by **John Wagner,** Education Department biologist. **Petra Sierwald, Dan Summers** and **Phil Parillo** of the Insects Division also shared their arachno-background with the volunteers who are now all avid araenophiles. Volunteers will be stationed in the exhibit with a variety of activities during the summer.

Teen volunteers are still needed. The training for teen volunteers for Spiders! starts June 15. Tell any interested teens to contact **Anita Morgan** (x360). Teens are asked to give twelve to fifteen hours a week for at least six weeks.

Thanks!

As you read this, **Spiders!** will be open to the public. Many staff throughout the museum contributed their labors to the hosting of this exhibit. Thanks to each and every one of you who gave your time, energy, and creativity to make this exhibit a success. I can't possibly name all of you here, but would like to acknowledge just a few of the individuals who were crucial to the effort:

Exhibit Designers **Brian Stacy**, responsible for the overall look of the exhibit, and **Doug DeWitt**, who created our mini-Field Museum inside the traveling exhibit under the supervisio of **David Layman.**

Zoology staff **Petra Sierwald**, co-curator of the traveling exhibit, content specialist on the internal exhibit, and media spokeswoman extraordinaire, and **Dan Summers**, who helped create the curator's office

Exhibit production staff **Michael Paha, George Chavez, Nel Fetherling, Paula Horecny, Matt Majer** and **Kent Peaslee** dedicated themselves to the build-out and installation with an amazing degree of dedication that pales only in comparison to the devoted web-weaving of **Paul Brunsvold** -- all under the careful eye of **Geoff Grove**

Painting by **Henry Tucker** and **Andre Williams**

Development of the curator's office and other various and sundry tasks by **Gene Dillenburg**

Lighting and technical wizardry by **Trigg Waller**

The logo and look of all the signage, print materials, banners, and the fabulous spiders on the roof are due to the creative talents of the entire graphics design area -- **Mary Chiz, Lynn Hobbs, Julie Nauman, Karen Olinski** and **David Quednau** -- under the art direction of **Jean Cattell**

An extraordinarily successful promotional campaign led by **Pat Kremer** with **Becky Lopez, Erin O'Donnell** and the entire PR Department

Program and volunteer training with the Education Department's **Joyce Matuszewicz** and **John Wagner**

Support and trust from **Laura Gates.**

This exhibit would not be what it is without the efforts of everyone -- whether named here or not -- who participated in this massive effort. Kudos to us all! **Carrie Hageman**

UPDATE

PARKING AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE CONSTRUCTION

North Lot Parking Changes

Within the next week, the drive separating the North lot and the Museum will be restriped to change the direction of diagonal parking. Vehicles entering the north lot from the west lot will then turn right and drive east in front of the Museum, and turn into the lot at the east end. Vehicles exiting the lot will do so through the old entrance, by the Security guard shack.

CONSTRUCTION SITE TO BE LOCKED -- NO ACCESS

Here is the latest information on construction site developments:

- The route through the construction area is being changed back to the perimeter pathway for the Memorial Day weekend, since the rain and the holiday weekend have halted paving.

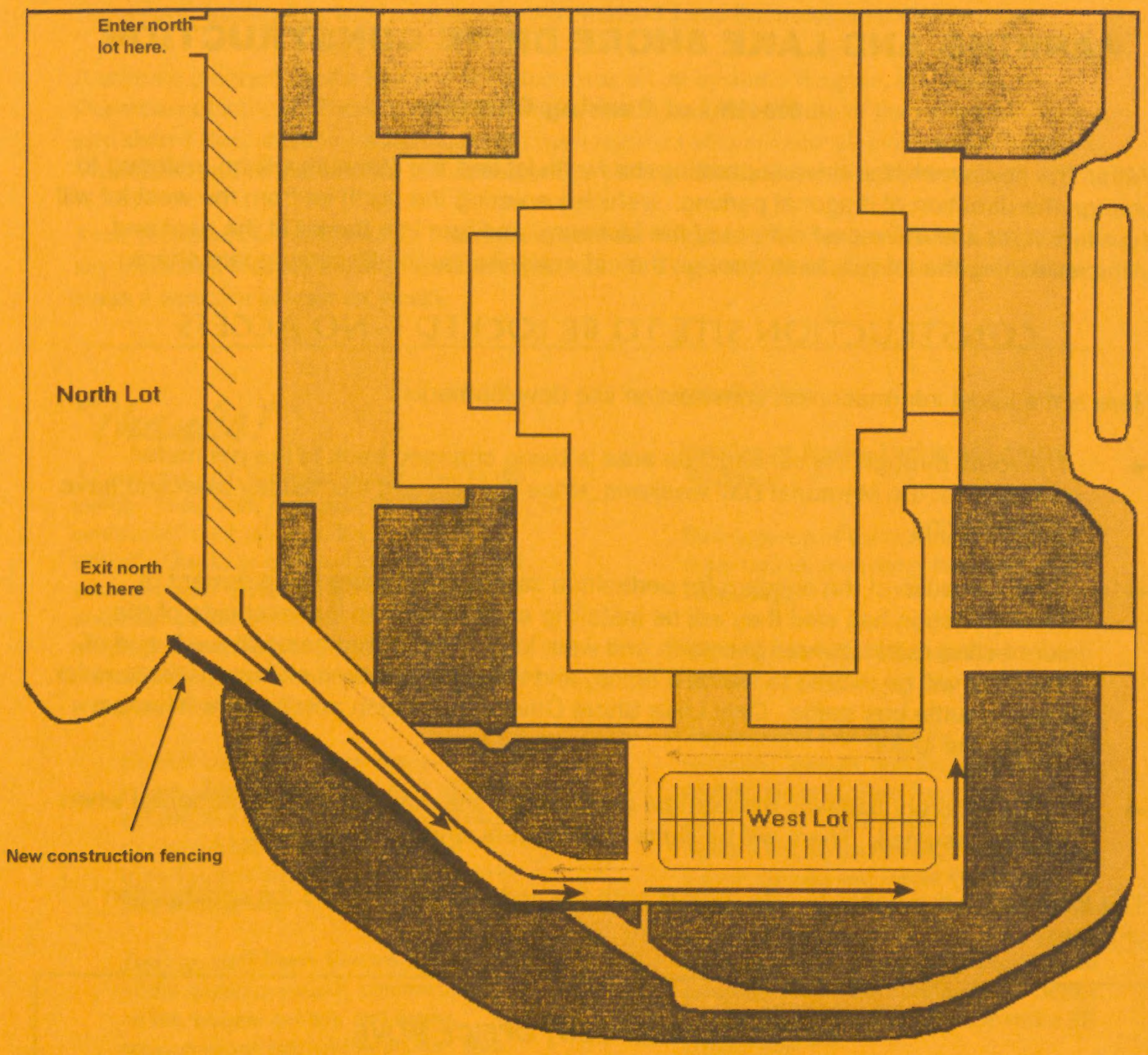
- And, because of the concern for pedestrian safety, the Chicago Department of Transportation has said they will be installing a new fence on the west side of the connecting road between the north and west lots. The current gates at each end of the drive will be moved to the new fence, and will remain locked except for McCormick Place shuttle bus traffic. Only Lake Shore Drive construction personnel will have a key for the locks.

- The temporary pathway through the construction site may have to be reopened when paving resumes. There will be signs and flaggers when this happens.

The diagram on the opposite side depicts both the north lot parking and the construction changes.

SECURITY EQUIPMENT OFFICE MOVE

The Security Equipment Office will be moving back to its original location and will be closed for a few days during this time. The move is scheduled to take place sometime between May 28 and June 1. During this time please call x239 before coming to the office and you will be informed of the status of the move, and if the office is open. Thank you for your cooperation.


Enter north lot here.
North Lot
Exit north lot here
New construction fencing
West Lot

YOU HELPED SAVE LIVES!

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all who participated in the tri-Museum Blood Drive last Thursday. The Drive was a big success, with The Field Museum providing 15 donors! A thank you is also extended to the department managers who provided the opportunity for staff and volunteers to support the project.

BCBS/HMO PHONES TEMPORARILY OUT-OF-SERVICE

The telephone system that services the Membership and Claims Inquiries Divisions of Blue Cross Blue Shield/PPO and HMO Illinois will be temporarily down for repairs beginning 12:01am on Friday, May 24, 1996. The phone system will be back in service beginning 12:01am on Tuesday, May 28, 1996. ***This is only for Membership and Claims Inquiries***. If you need to call Medical Services Advisory (MSA) or your primary care physician, your call will go through as usual. Please see **Jennifer** in Benefits if you have any questions.

VOICE MAIL MESSAGE -- PLEASE DELETE ... PLEASE DELETE ... PLEASE DELETE ...

The accumulation of undeleted messages in the Meridian Mail Memory can impair the proper functioning of the system. Once again we remind you, playing the message does not remove it from the system memory, each message must be individually deleted by dialing, "7-6", after playing the message. Please make this your standard procedure--after playing the message and noting its content, immediately dial "7-6" and delete it. If you plan on being away from the Museum, please have someone retrieve your messages. It is also helpful to re-record your greeting. Ms. Meridian will be very grateful for your help.-- **Pat Phillips** (x216)

EXCLUSIVE TO FIELD MUSEUM STAFF

WHO: THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

WHAT: CONGRATULATIONS, CAKE AND KUDOS FOR ERIN O'DONNELL

WHY: AFTER SIX YEARS OF PLACING ONE-OF-A-KIND STORIES ABOUT DANGEROUS DINOSAURS AND MAGNIFICENT MUMMIES, MEDIA MAVEN ERIN O'DONNELL HAS SOME MAGNIFICENT NEWS OF HER OWN. SHE WILL BE LEAVING THE FIELD MUSEUM ON MAY 29 TO AWAIT THE BIRTH OF A SECOND CHILD. PLEASE STOP BY FOR CAKE AND KOOL AID (PR PEOPLE LOVE ALLITERATION) AND JOIN US IN THANKING ERIN FOR KEEPING THE FIELD MUSEUM AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS FOR SO MANY YEARS.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1996, 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE -- SECOND FLOOR

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

CONGRATULATIONS!

David S. Reese (Anthropology) was recently elected President of the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. David will return to Cyprus and Greece this summer for more zooarchaeological research, with funding from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory.

Janice Klein (Anthropology) was elected Chair of the American Association of Museums' Registrars Committee. She will serve a term of two years, coordinating the activities of the 700 member organization. Janice was also elected Chair of the Standing Professional Committee Council, one of three groups which serves as an advisory body to the Board of the American Association of Museums.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

ATTENTION ALL CEEB CURATORS AND RESEARCHERS

Please be aware of current NSF proposal deadlines. Before submitting to NSF, proposals must be routed according to Field Museum procedures.

Systematics and Population Biology
June 15, 1996

Long-Term Projects in Environmental Biology: Research Collections in Systematics and Ecology
June 15, 1996

Research Collections in Systematics and Ecology
July 15, 1996

For questions about submitting a proposal for these or other programs, please contact **Pam Reynolds,** Sponsored Programs (x887). For budget-related questions, please contact **Lisa Wodis,** Finance (x542).

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a two-year grant of $374,991 to The Field Museum for support of the project "Expansion and Improvement of the Field Museum Pinned Insect Collection." This project will be conducted under the direction of **Alfred F. Newton Jr.** and **Margaret K. Thayer** (both Zoology).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE FORTHCOMING

John Flynn (Geology) recently was awarded one of 43 National Science Foundation REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) grants. This grant is a supplement to John's existing NSF research grant for work in the Chilean Andes, and is intended to benefit undergraduates "who could not otherwise take the opportunity to participate in basic research activities." Flynn's proposal suggested two projects that undergraduates might undertake: 1) the first would be preparation and detailed systematic analyses of one or more species of a major group (either rodents or native hoofed herbivores [notoungulates]) of South American mammals well-represented in our new fossil collections and evaluation of the nature of anatomical transformations associated with dramatic habitat changes (forests giving way to the oldest grasslands in the world) known to occur within the sequences, will be undertaken by the NSF intern, and 2) the other, involving using skull and tooth features and dietary information for living New World monkeys to better infer dietary adaptations in fossil monkeys like their recently discovered Chilecebus, will be pursued by an incoming Field Museum Scholarship Committee summer intern (**Karen Sears**).

BOLIVIAN AND PERUVIAN SCIENTISTS WORK WITH GIS TECHNOLOGY ON FIELD MUSEUM COLLECTION DATA BASES FROM THEIR COUNTRIES

Among the many distinguished attendees of the Spring Systematics Symposium on May 11 were Sergio Solari of the Museo de Historia Natural in Lima, Peru, and Teddy Siles and Romer Miserendino of the Museo de Historia Natural "Noel Kempff Mercado" in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. These three scientists will be visiting the museum for a month learning about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and their uses through a CEEB-sponsored mini-course organized by **John Bates** (Zoology). The group is working on the Bolivian and Peruvian data bases of the bird and mammal divisions with Bates and **Bruce Patterson** (Zoology). On May 15, the three received a guest lecture from Adolfo Navarro, Curator of Birds at the Universidad Nacional Aut≤noma de MΘxico. Adolfo talked about the extensive databases on Mexican biodiversity assembled by the Comisi≤n Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodeversidad de MΘxico (CONABIO). Adolfo's presentation (in Spanish) showed how CONABIO's efforts to assemble all available collection-based information about Mexican biodiversity could serve as a model for how other Latin American museums and universities can establish biodiversity centers in their countries. The visitors also received a demonstration of botanical georeferencing work being done by **Mike Dillon** (Botany). Mike showed how his research and that of other botanists is being made more accessible through the Worldwide Web. Romer, Teddy, and Sergio will be working in the bird and mammal collections through June 11.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday May 21, 1996 was delivered by Katherine Kelly, Lester Armour Fellow, and doctoral candidate, Committee on Evolutionary Biology,University of Chicago. Kate discussed research for her dissertation: Coupling of antipredator characters: phylogenetic and experimental analyses of Tiger Beetle (*Cicindelidae*) coloration and chemical defenses. Tiger Beetles may be brightly colored and conspicuous or have cryptic coloration. Tiger Beetles also vary in their ability to produce a defensive compound, benzaldehyde. Both birds and robber flies are predators of Tiger Beetles. Two competing hypotheses, the single predator hypothesis (SPH), and the mutiple predator hypothesis (MPH), have quite different expectations for the evolution of antipredator attributes. SPH predicts that having once evolved the ability to produce a defensive compound, that ability would not be lost, while MPH does not have this constraint. Joint work with Dr. Alfred Volger, American Museum, resulted in a molecular data set to develop a robust hypothesis of phylogenetic relations of the subspecies, species and 8 of the 9 subgenera comprising the genus Cicindella in North America. She conducted extensive field work to obtain live beetles to provide a quantative analysis of benzaldehyde productvity of individuals representing more than 50 taxa. The taxonomic distribution of these antipredator attributes, coloration and chemical defenses, were placed in this phylogenetic framework. Each possible combination, cryptic coloration with or without the defensive compound, and conspicuous coloration with or without the defensive compound was found to have evolved within the group at least once, some patterns multiple times. The phylogenetic distribution of these patterns provides preliminary support for both the SPH and MPH hypotheses.

Dahao Wang and his wife would like to express their thanks to all those who sent their best wishes.